

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, October 13, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE
Scott Fabel, Utility Division

(390) In the matter of Qwest Corporation, N2005.9.140, on September 21, 2005, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 05-17. In this filing Qwest is requesting to remove the following sentence from the tariff. "If a customer migrates to MegaBit Service from ISDN the termination charges will be waived." Qwest is requesting to remove this language as part of its overall effort to remove MegaBit Service from the state tariff and catalog since customers now purchase DSL out of the interstate tariff. Qwest does not have any existing MegaBit customers in the state of Montana. Qwest is requesting an October 21, 2005, effective date for this filing.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve Qwest Tariff Transmittal 05-17 in Docket N2005.9.140. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(391) In the matter of Qwest Corporation, N2005.9.146, on September 23, 2005, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 05-18. In this filing Qwest is proposing to introduce term discount pricing for the Qwest Choice™ Business Plus, and Add-A-Line packages.

Commissioner Raney moved to approve Qwest Tariff Transmittal 05-18 in Docket N2005.9.146. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(392) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Mood moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of October 3, 2005. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson, Legal Division
Mike Lee, Utility Division

(393) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2004.1.7 – Sagebrush Cellular:

Commissioner Schneider moved to direct staff to prepare a draft order that would approve the ETC status for Sagebrush Cellular that would be consistent with the stipulation and standards adopted with the Mid Rivers Cellular approval. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Utility Division

(394) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of FERC 9/30/2005 order convening joint boards pursuant to Sec 223 of the Federal Power Act:

Commissioner Mood moved to designate Commissioner Schneider to serve on the Western Joint Board and Commissioner Jergeson to serve on the PJM/MISO regional joint board. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson and Al Brogan, Legal Division

Dave Burchett, Kim Moran, Will Rosquist, and Tina Shorten, Utility Division

(395) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2004.7.99, D2004.12.192, D2005.6.106 – NWE gas and electric USB consolidated dockets:

Commissioner Schneider moved that the Commission as part of the order, direct staff to prepare an order that would incorporate a 25% discount for electricity and a 30% discount for natural gas and the Commission will then decide what components for the program need to be moved to accommodate the funding. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion.

Substitute Motion: Commissioner Molnar moved to add the word eliminate, which would have the motion read as follows: that the Commission as part of the order, direct staff to prepare an order that would incorporate a 25% discount for electricity and a 30% discount for natural gas, and that we will then decide what components of the program need to be move or eliminated to accommodate the funding. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3 to 2. Commissioner Jergeson and Commissioner Raney voted no.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Legal Division

Mike Lee, Utility Division

(396) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Ronan Telephone Company (D2000.1.14) – proposal from Ronan to settle its appeal of lower court decision affirming PSC Orders No.s 6625g and 6625i:

Commissioner Schneider moved to close the meeting under the litigation exception. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved that the Commission will consider revising its order with

respect to issues 1, 3, and 4, but will not consider revising its orders regarding issue 2 concerning transit traffic. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division

(397) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of in the matter of Northwestern Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., and Energy West Montana - Docket No. D2005.9.145 - expansion of winter-months "moratorium" on termination for qualifying customers:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the Interim Order as the Final Order. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones

Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, October 13, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE
Eric Eck, Utility Division

(398) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D2005.5.88, Electric Default Interim Order;

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the Interim Order as drafted. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Molnar voted no.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman
(Voting to dissent)

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)